



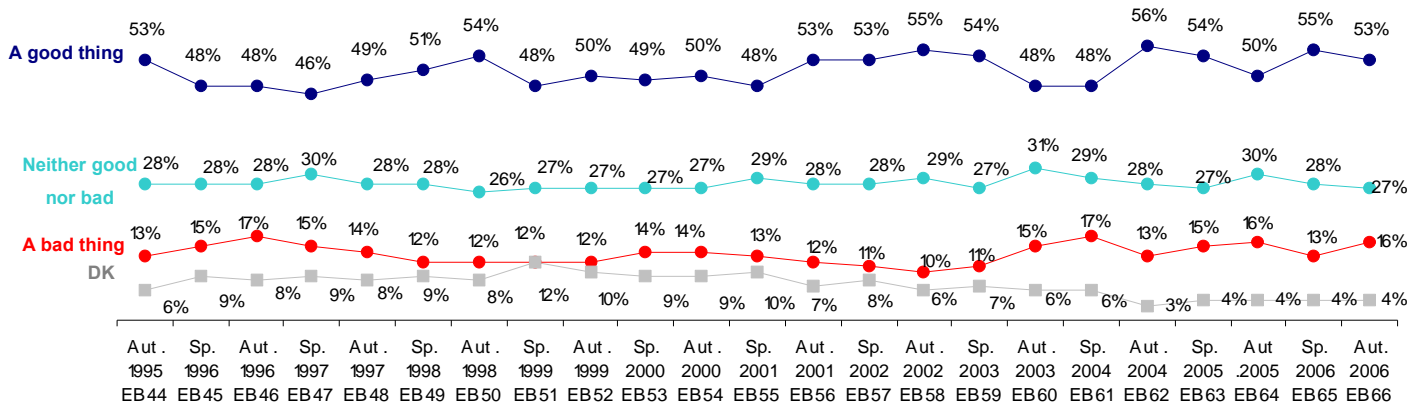
TNS POLLING & SOCIAL FACTS AND FIGURES – EUROBAROMETER

SLIGHT DECREASE IN SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN UNION MEMBERSHIP

London (UK), January 4th, 2007 – Support for European Union membership is somewhat lower than it was in Spring 2006. On average, 53 percent of European Union citizens now believe that their country’s membership of the European Union is a good thing (down 2 points), while 16 percent of respondents think that it is a bad thing (up 3 points) according to the findings of the latest wave of the Eurobarometer survey conducted by TNS Opinion & Social for the European Commission.

Support to the membership of the European Union –European Union percentage

Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)’s membership of the European Union is ...?
a good thing – a bad thing – neither good nor bad.



Source: TNS Opinion & Social for the European Commission – Eurobarometer 66

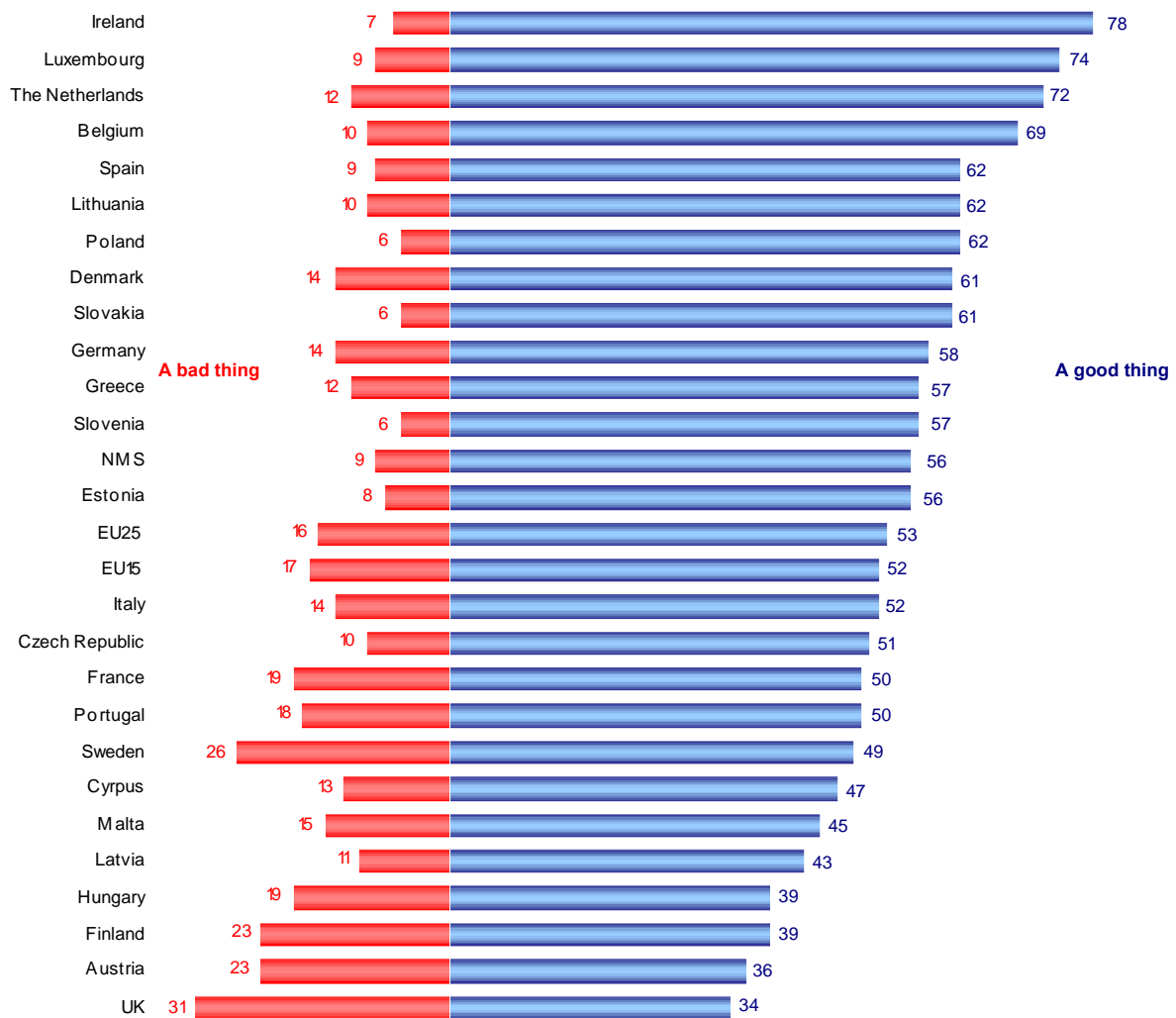
The survey, which interviews nearly 30,000 people across the 25 Member States, the two acceding countries, the two candidate countries and the Turkish Cypriot Community, also shows that support for European Union membership remains strongest in Ireland, where almost 8 out of 10 people see it as a good thing (78 percent; up 1 point). Luxembourg (74 percent; up 2 points), the Netherlands (72 percent; down 2 points) and Belgium (69 percent; down 4 points) are the three other Member States where more than two-thirds of people share this view. At the other end of the scale, support for European Union membership is lowest in the United

Kingdom (34 percent; down 8 points), Austria (36 percent; up 2 points), Finland (39 percent; no change) and Hungary (39 percent; down 10 points).

There are significant socio-demographic differences on this dimension, particularly in terms of the education, occupation and age of respondents. 67 percent of respondents who studied beyond the age of 20 consider that it is a good thing compared with 41 percent of those who left school the earliest (i.e. a difference as high as 26 percentage points). 68 percent of managers approve of membership compared with 45 percent of those who look after the home. 60 percent of respondents aged 15-24 believe that it is a good thing to be part of the EU compared with 48 percent of those aged 55 and over.

Support to the membership of the European Union – percentage per country

*Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the European Union is ...?
a good thing - a bad thing – neither good nor bad.*



Source: TNS Opinion & Social for the European Commission – Eurobarometer 66

In terms of subjective EU knowledge, there is a 25 points difference between respondents who consider that they know a great deal about the European Union and those who feel that they know very little (67 percent versus 42 percent).

Support to the membership of the European Union – percentage per socio demographic level

	A good Thing	A bad Thing	Neither good nor bad	DK/NA
EU average	53	16	27	4
Age				
15-24 ?	60	10	26	4
25-39	55	15	27	3
40-54	52	17	27	3
55+	48	18	28	5
Education (End of)				
15-	41	20	32	6
16-19	49	17	31	3
20+ ?	67	11	20	1
Still Studying	66	9	21	4
Occupation				
Self-employed	60	16	22	2
Managers ?	68	12	19	1
Other White Collars	58	14	26	2
Manual Workers	47	16	33	4
House Persons	45	17	30	8
Unemployed	46	18	32	4
Retired	47	19	30	5
Students	66	9	21	4
EU knowledge				
1-3	42	18	33	7
4-7	61	14	24	1
8-10 ?	67	12	19	2

Source: TNS Opinion & Social for the European Commission – Eurobarometer 66

Marita Carballo, Global Head of TNS Polling & Social, comments: “The idea that the membership to the European Union is a good thing has remained stable among Europeans since spring 2006. The Eurobarometer survey, however, shows slightly lower levels of positive responses, with a corresponding increase in malcontents. It will be interesting to follow the evolution of this indicator, especially with the recent inclusion of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007. Carrying out this process successfully while assuring support from the citizenship will be certainly one of the biggest challenges for the UE in the near future”.

Ends

Note to Editors

About TNS Polling & Social Facts and Figures:

The Eurobarometer report was posted at the following website on December 2006:
http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/standard_en.htm

The European Commission has made data from this report available to relevant media since it was first published. To the best of our knowledge, the findings in the attached press release have not been released.

These findings are based on TNS Opinion & Social research conducted between March and May 2006. All data discussed in the above announcement is based on the opinions of those surveyed. TNS will only support data which is published, in the context we have presented it and our own interpretation of these findings. We cannot be held responsible for any other interpretation.

As a leading information provider, TNS wants to cast new light on currently debated topics presenting data collected on a European or International basis. TNS Polling & Social Facts & Figures will be published twice a month.

Methodological background:

Fieldwork: 6th of September to the 10th of October 2006

Number of interviews conducted: 29,152 persons interviewed face-to-face in the 25 Member States of the EU, the two acceding countries (Bulgaria and Romania), the two candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey) and the non-government controlled area of Cyprus.

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For more information and detailed results on a country-by-country basis, please contact:

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